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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Information

April 1946

Reserve

A FIGHT FOR LIFE

(A 33-frame film strip for use of discussion leaders
in connection with Famine Emergency Campaign.)

FRAME

SCRIPT

1. A Fight for Life
2. Presented by the U. S. Department of Agriculture
3. Franklin D. Roosevelt Speaker: From the very start of the war one
of our primary goals, enunciated by
Franklin D. Roosevelt, has been the
prevention of death by famine.
But around the globe -- today, at
this very moment -- half a world is
on the brink of famine.
4. Devastation Speaker: Our armies did a terrific job of
tearing up a country, and turning
food-producing soil into scorched
wasteland. It was a dirty job --
but a necessary one. Now that land
must be nursed back to fertility.
5. Dead steer Speaker: Casualty rates among farm animals
were tremendously high -- in some
countries as high as 80%.
6. Human plow-team Speaker: Human plow-teams all over Europe
had to hitch themselves to plows, like
oxen, in an effort to scratch some
sustenance from the soil.

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Subject: 2. + 3. + 4. + 5. + 6. + 7. + 8. + 9. + 10. + 11. + 12.

7. Demolished railroad

Speaker: Our armies ripped the heart out of

transportation systems and paralyzed

the flow of food from farm to consumer.

8. Drought

Speaker: Devastating droughts -- in some places

the worst in generations and worse

than our own dust-bowl droughts -- have

made the already war-complicated task

of feeding the people even more difficult.

9. Map of the world

Speaker: All around the world it is the same

story -- diets in hunger areas are

dangerously below the minimum health

standards of 2300 calories per person

per day; while in America we are eating

about 3400 calories per person per day.

10. Cave dwellers

Speaker: The results of war and drought abroad

add up to pinching hunger for millions

of men, women, and especially children --

cave dwellers, A. D. 1946.

11. Yugoslav child

Speaker: This Yugoslav child looks like a one-

year old. He is actually three.

Malnutrition has shriveled his body

almost to half-size. And there are many

more like him.

12. Woman and garbage can

Speaker: Hunger makes people desperate, but this

woman will find little edible food in the

garbage. Europeans waste no food today.

Every scrap is devoured.

13. Dead horse

Speaker: Famine makes shopping for food simple -- tragically simple. And horsemeat must taste good to a man dying of starvation. But now let's take a look across the water -- only seven hours away from this French street by sun-time, fifteen in a fast B-29.

14. Wheat fields

Speaker: This is America -- with her "amber waves of grain." America has just had the greatest winter wheat crop in history.

15. Old women

Speaker: And while our neighbors in this small world hardly know where to turn for their next meal

16. American family at dinner

Speaker: Americans are eating better and more than they did before the war.

17. Ice cream cone boys

Speaker: When an American kid runs down to the corner drugstore for an ice cream cone, he probably has the equivalent in calories of what a Greek or Chinese or French kid eats for a whole meal.

18. Children, hands outstretched

Speaker: By late last winter it became vividly clear that something drastic had to be done about the world food problem. President Truman issued orders designed to conserve food.

19. Loading wheat Speaker: To break transportation bottlenecks and rush food from farms and across the seas to the stricken lands.
20. Famine Emergency Committee Speaker: But government orders are not enough. President Truman created the Famine Emergency Committee with Former President Hoover at its head to translate American sympathy and generosity into life-saving action. Shown, left to right, are Mr. Hoover, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson, and Chester Davis, executive chairman of the Famine Emergency Committee.
21. Hoover embarking Speaker: Mr. Hoover went to Europe to make an on-the-spot survey of famine areas, and the Famine Emergency Committee asked every American to save as much food as possible to support increased shipments abroad.
22. Invisible guest (empty chair) Speaker: If your next-door neighbor were hungry, you would certainly make a place at your table and heap his plate. Share each meal with a hungry neighbor from overseas, even though he does not actually sit in that vacant chair.

23. Garbage truck

Speaker: Americans waste 19,150 tons of edible food each day. This amount could feed 19 million people daily. 5% of all bread baked -- one slice out of each loaf -- goes into garbage. This enormous waste must be stopped.

24. Lettered frame

Speaker: Conserve -- cut food waste to the bone. Eat 40% less bread and wheat products. Eat 20% less fats and oils. Substitute plentiful foods such as potatoes, poultry, eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables. Even after taking every step asked of them in the fight on famine, Americans will still eat better than before the war.

25. Cooking scene

Speaker: Cook with "used" fats and use them over and over again. One teaspoon of fat saved each day by each American will mean a total saving of one million pounds of fat a day.

26. Fat Salvage

Speaker: Salvage fats when no longer usable in cooking and contribute to the Fat Salvage Drive.

27. Victory Garden Speaker: During the war 18 million Victory Gardens produced 40% of America's fresh vegetables. The need now is as urgent as ever. Every pound of food produced in Victory Gardens adds to our total food supply, helps us provide more food for the famished. Keep up your garden and preserve food at home.
28. Food ship in port Speaker: There is still time to save many millions. America and Canada have already exported more than 2,800,000 tons of wheat during the first quarter of 1946.
29. Food line Speaker: But this flow of food must be maintained and increased. The people on this "chow" line are fortunate -- for the time being. But what of tomorrow? And what of their neighbors who are not in this line?
30. European children Speaker: These European children look well fed and happy.
31. Girl Speaker: But so many children in Europe today have a haunted, sorrowful look in their eyes. What will become of them if we don't help feed them?

32. Truman

Speaker: "More people face starvation and... death from want of food today than in any war year and perhaps more than in all the war years combined...We cannot meet this situation without an aggressive voluntary program on the part of private citizens to reduce food consumption in this country."

33.

Speaker: Americans can help lift a great suffering if they will do what President Truman's Famine Emergency Committee has asked: Eat less wheat products and fats. Waste nothing. Serve the more plentiful foods. Keep up your Victory Garden and preserve food at home.

